

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 16 | Humidity 37%

Clear with periodic clouds

Sensex 60,691

Nifty 17,844

Gold 56,332

Silver 65,810

Dollar 82.70

Euro 88.37

GBP 99.57



Newly set up prepaid auto counters at metro stations have brought little change to exorbitant auto fares, citizens say

AUTO-RISK-AH!

Counters at Cubbon Park, MG Road stations opened a month ago

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A month after the inauguration of pre-fixed auto counters at the Cubbon Park and MG Road metro stations, the facilities have brought little change to the exorbitant auto fares in the city, commuters BM spoke to said.

"Nothing much has changed after these new pre-fixed auto fare counters came up in the city... First of all, there are rarely any auto rickshaws available near the MG Road metro station; I end up waiting for 10-15 minutes for autos to complete their trips and come back near the counter," Sharad Shrinivas, 26, a regular commuter told Bangalore Mirror.

"But the bigger problem is that the pre-fixed auto fare counters do not work the way they are supposed to be working... So often, the auto drivers end up charging more at the destination than was fixed. They give reasons like traffic congestion,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>



“Auto driver ended up charging Rs 100 for just 3 km. It was double the amount shown in cab aggregator apps

— Tanvi Singh, commuter

Not a level playing field

Just days after inauguration, playground develops cracks in walking track



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In yet another case of poor-quality construction, a playground developed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is wearing down just 12 days after it was opened. BBMP officials, however, blamed incomplete renovation for the damaged infrastructure.

Just 12 days ago, the Rani Abbakka playground in Mahalakshmi Layout was inaugurated. Now the ground has sustained cracks in the walking track area. According to the civic body, there is still pending work that needs to be completed.

The closed Rani Abbakka playground formerly known as the Kamalamanna Gundi Playground was opened to the public on February 7.

Nearly ten days later, residents complained about the playground premises, especially the walking track and the stadium's seating facility that started to crumble.

The walking track around the playground suffers from a lack of maintenance; dry leaves are strewn all over the path. Some of the tiles in the walking path have been displaced and could be injurious to walkers and jogging enthusiasts. The ramp portion near the gate sustained cracks and the pillars supporting the gate have also sustained damage.

A resident of the area, Anand Kumar, told BM that due to the low quality of maintenance and low-quality work, the infrastructure is crumbling.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Infinite Light



Gallery Sumukha presents 'Infinite Light', a major and multi-genre exhibition of the work of the renowned artist Paresch Maity at Gallery Sumukha. The exhibition brings together, for the very first time, a selected compilation of works by Maity, showcasing drawings, paintings and sculptures created through four decades of his art practice. The artist will be present at the preview exhibit on 26th February.

Where: Gallery Sumukha, Wilson Garden
When: Feb 26 - Mar 25, 10:30am - 6pm (Mon - Sat)



02 Write away!

Lahe Lahe brings to you an evening of baring your soul on paper. Every Tuesday, participate in a heart-plucking session of poetry, and good company. Come, share your poetry in a circle and unwind.

Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Feb 21, 7.30-9.30 pm
Contact: 9886294444

03 Keep dancing



The greatest of all competitions for dance, the Dance World Cup is expecting participation from 56 different countries with almost 1,800 competitors from across the world. India has bagged multiple gold, silver and bronze medals at the World Cup in the last 10 years, and it could be you this year!

Link: www.dwc-india.com
Register: till 31st March



Winners take all

Two gold medallists of VTU share stories of braving the odds to succeed in life

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The 22nd Annual Convocation of Visvesvaraya Technological University is set to be held on February 24, and city students who have bagged top ranks have shared their experiences and challenges to success.

For Aakanksha Chavan, a student of East West College of Engineering, during Covid when colleges had shifted to online mode, she had gone back to her native place in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district. "The biggest challenge for us more than the fear of contracting covid, was the poor mobile network. I would hardly get any mobile connection at home. Regularly, I had to do a survey as to which were the potential points where we can get good mobile connectivity. So, every morning, I used

“ More than the number of hours used to study, it is important how much one concentrates

to sit in those places which were mostly outside the house and inside the compound to listen to lectures. As my place is known for hot summers and heavy rainfall during monsoon, we had to skip classes if it was not conducive to sit outside," says the gold medallist.

Chavan says that it is important to focus on qualitative learning rather than quantitative. "I often hear students saying that they read for hours together. More than number of hours of study, it is very important to concentrate. I used to always be focussed in classes and this helped me to grasp the concepts quickly, the 23-year-old student added.

For Kaushik PM (who had bagged the first rank in

—Aakanksha Chavan, a gold medallist

Biotechnology and fifth rank overall), environment always comes first. He had completed his BE from Sapthagiri College of Engineering and is now interning as a project assistant at Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

He said that he wanted to create awareness on climate change and reduce pollution. In fact, Kaushik had also been involved when his native Kodagu district was devastated by floods a few years ago.

Twenty-three-year-old Kaushik said, "I had toured the flood-affected areas to study as to what could be the reasons for the floods. I had interviewed more than 400 people who were affected by floods and shared various tips on how to act when

their homes are affected by floods. First of all, the residents need to be aware of taking quick action. They need to think and act as to what they could do at that moment. One of the main reasons for floods is due to excessive deforestation. We need to take measures as to how we can save the environment and protect trees. The locals also should go for those plants which are locally available and economically helpful."

Kaushik has also done a survey and awareness programme in Hesaraghatta. Many believe in Bengaluru that degradation of forests in Western Ghats may not have any impact on the city. However, what people fail to understand is that any impact on ecology in other parts of the state may have its adverse effect here also, he said.

He said that for creating awareness, he spent a lot of time at the laboratory which helped him to score excellent marks.

A big step for organ transplantation

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Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has announced setting up of the country's first dedicated organ transplant public hospital.

Health professionals say that this is a good move for the health sector as many people often die waiting to get organ donations.

The state's first 120-bed Institute of Gastroenterology and Organ Transplant was set up last year at the Victoria Hospital. The centre has proved to benefit thousands of patients. In a year's time, over 53,500 patients have visited the centre. At the organ transplant centre, only liver

transplants are done. In the past four months, over five liver transplants were carried out.

This institute will be shifted to the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences. Bommai stated that the dedicated public hospital for organ transplantation will be set up at a cost of Rs 146 crores in NIMHANS.

Dr Nagesh NS, Director Institute of Gastroenterology and Organ Transplant said, "There is a 10-acre land at the NIMHANS centre which will be used to set up the organ transplantation centre. This was a very much needed move as organ transplantation is very complicated, wherein it is not accessible easily for the common man. There is a huge waiting list and scarcity for



organs. This apart, we don't have trained professionals for organ transplantation and there is lack of manpower. At the centre, we carry out liver transplants where we charge Rs 4 lakh but if people go to other centres, they will have to shell out at least up to Rs 40 lakh. For people from below poverty line and other under-

privileged backgrounds the cost varies."

Dr Nagesh further added that as NIMHANS sees many brain-dead patients, mobilising organs will be easier. In European countries, there are many multi organ transplant centres under one roof. But in India we do not have such a centre. By creating this centre, it will help the patients at large and save many lives.

Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare (HFW), Randeep D said, "Around half a million people in the waiting list do not receive organs on time. The cadaver organ donation program of Karnataka will benefit from partnership with NIMHANS as a centre of excellence for sourcing organ donors to match the demand."

Never-ending traffic? Blame it on the cars

Number of new two-wheelers and cars registered in city in Jan 2023 increased by nearly 30% as compared to Jan 2022

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Bengaluru's infamous traffic snarl is set to worsen in the future, if recent data by Karnataka Transport Department is anything to go by. According to the vehicular statistics report of the department, the number of new private vehicles being registered in the city is spiralling every month.

The number of new two-wheelers and cars registered in the city in January 2023 has increased by nearly 30 per cent compared to the numbers registered in January 2022. While 48,528 vehicles (cars and two-wheelers) have been registered last month, it was 37,969 in January 2022 and 43,247 in January 2021.

Experts say the push being given to road infrastructure in the city is fuelling this spurt in private vehicles. According to Dr Ashish Verma, Sustainable Transport Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), new road

It seems like the intent of the government is to do everything to encourage private vehicles as it also brings in a lot of revenue. Not moving fast on effective, efficient, and extensive public transport is also part of the plot



infrastructures including flyovers will only lead to a further increase in private vehicles till the city reaches its vehicle ownership saturation level.

"The current vehicle ownership level of Bengaluru is hardly 150-200 cars per thousand population. In countries like USA and Germany, this is estimated to be 700-800 cars per thousand population. More space created for personal vehicles will make their movement easier and faster, leading to a further increase in private vehicle ownership and usage. More so, when the city is nowhere even close to the saturation level of car ownership," said Dr Verma.

Since private vehicle ownership is strongly influenced by economic

growth, increasing income will fuel vehicle ownership further, unless the government makes an effort on war footing to bring in an extensive network of an MRTA-like system.

"If the government desires to make Bengaluru a sustainable city, it should focus on a dense spider web of MRTA-like system. As we speak, a network of at least 300 to 350 kilometre of suburban rail and metro rail together is the need of the hour. While both systems are in process, the pace of implementation at every stretch and phase is delayed. While flyovers, road widening, and white topping projects are getting announced, approved, and completed in short periods, the public transport networks are delayed," added Dr Verma.

Rail activists in the city agree. They point out that the slow pace of public transport projects is part of the authorities' revenue-generating scheme.

"It seems like the intent of the government is to do everything to encourage private vehicles as it also brings in a lot of revenue. Not moving fast on effective, efficient, and extensive public transport is also part of the plot. Unfortunately, BMTC, the biggest stakeholder in the private transport system of Bengaluru has been ignored in the present budget as has walkability & cycling facilitation. The State Government cannot escape direct responsibility for this scenario," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizen for Citizen (C4C).

Mother, son fall in pit, die

A mother and child died after falling into a farm pit in Kollur village of Doddaballapur taluk of Bengaluru Rural. The victims have been identified as Roopa, 32, and her nine-year-old boy Hemant. It was suspected that this mishap occurred when they took their cattle to drink water, and while trying to save one of them, they fell into the pit and both died. At present, the locals have pulled out the two bodies from the pit. **BMB**

Protesters caned for blocking expressway



Farmers and locals from Mandya staged a protest on Monday, blocking the recently constructed Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway for more than two hours in order to demand an underpass closure. Due to the protest, the flow of the traffic was disrupted, and police caned the protesters to disperse the crowd.

On the expressway, there was a long line of vehicles and because they couldn't use the service road, commuters experienced significant inconvenience.

When the police first arrived, they appealed to the demonstrators to end their demonstration. But, after some time, when the protesters became resolute about carrying on their demonstration until evening, verbal arguments occurred between the protesters and the police, resulting in a lathi charge. **BMB**

... No infra, but B'luru cyclists keep taking the tough path

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

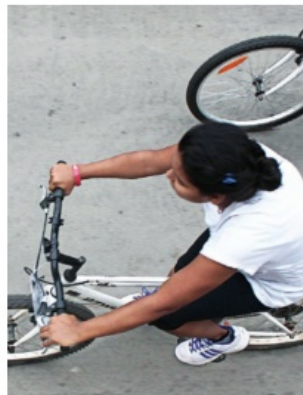
The Cycle To Work platform launched in 2018 on International Car Free Day to measure bicycle rides at a company level just got easier thanks to an advanced mobility intelligence platform called the AltMo. AltMo is a platform for quantifying end-to-end sustainable transport modes towards achieving climate change goals.

Started by Bengaluru's Bicycle Mayor Sathya Sankaran, this platform enables one to clock their bicycles rides to work. Users can track

the carbon offset, fuel saved and the total rides. The leaderboard shows how one ranks against each other.

Over 100+ cities in India and across the globe have been using the AltMo platform. Despite the fact that Bengaluru lacks proper infrastructure and mobility for cyclists and walkers, Bengalureans top the charts in terms of CO2 offsets and the amount of fuel saved in companies to 100 cities.

Carbon offset is a reduction or removal of emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Here the carbon offset is a carbon credit where the person who cycles to work or cycles to public trans-



port unit for example a metro or bus station, helps in reducing the carbon footprint which adds up to the carbon credit or carbon offset.

"A few months ago, the

platform began to track cycle rides to public transport stations. This allowed us to extend emission credits to people who couldn't do entire rides to their workplace. There is now a potential to include other sustainable modes like walk to transit," said Sankaran.

As of February 20, Bengaluru tops the chart with 2,12,788 kg of CO2 offsets with 91,924 litres of fuel saved. The second on the list is Silvassa at 19,490 kg of CO2 offsets with 8,419 litres fuel saved and Pune with 8,975 kg CO2 offsets and 3,877 litres saved.

Over 600-plus companies have registered in the AltMo for cycle to work. In Bengaluru, 300 companies are part of the

platform with 2,231 riders and completion of 97,296 rides.

The leaderboard shows some that Texas Instruments India, Bengaluru, have over 35% of employees cycling to work. Over 422 riders are from the company. And next on the list is Bosch Bengaluru, where the employees have covered over 92,083 kilometres on cycle.

About who Bengaluru's cycling community, Sankaran said, "I have seen the journey of Bengaluru from a decade and the cycle community keeps growing every day. Bengaluru can be cycling capital city of the country. We have an active cycling community, but we lack infrastructure."

He said that AltMo is constantly evolving. "There seems to be an endless amount of features in the pipeline. We want to prioritise the ones that serve the community first," said Sankaran.

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Use some spare time to complete desilting

Delay in desilting work of rajakaluve at HRBR Layout is exposing residents to health hazards



The rajakaluve is filled with toxic waste and sewage keeps increasing

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The residents staying at HRBR Layout are facing problems because of the ongoing desilting work of the rajakaluve in the area. They say that despite having follow-ups for a long time, no effort has been made to escalate the work. For the last one year, there have been follow-ups for the work. Still, no measures have been taken to expedite it.

"There is no improvement in this rajakaluve. There have been several follow-ups regarding the work and the officials have been doing some work for the last 3 months, and still there is no improvement," said Anand K, a resident of the area.

Other residents added that the flow of sewage has been increasing.

Aditya Jha, another resident, told Bangalore Mirror that for the last three months the workers have been bringing their vehicles and staying at the spot for hours. Despite which, the residents do not see any changes.

"Every day the flow of sewage keeps on increasing. This stretch is barely one kilometre and they are taking so much time to clean this also. They are just exposing people to more risks and health hazards," he said.

Further, the residents fear that the flow of sewage can cause a number of infections among the people living in the area and the accumulation of so much waste materials will lead to unbearable stench.

“There is no change in this rajakaluve. There have been many follow-ups regarding the work and the officials have been doing some work for the last 3 months” –Anand K, a resident

According to another resident, the rajakaluve is filled with toxic waste and can cause a number of infections to the people staying nearby.

"The waste materials can also attract rodents, which won't be good for the people. If the desilting is not done soon then the sewage will start flowing on the road, making the situation more chaotic," they said.

Residents mentioned that no official came to supervise and check if the work was being done properly or not.

"I have not seen any supervision from any officials for this work. Moreover, the workers appointed for this work mostly spend their time sitting. This is the reason why it is taking so long to finish the work on this stretch. If there was regular supervision from the authorities, then this work would have been completed a long time ago," said Vikas Narayanan, another resident.

Meanwhile, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official told BM that they are working on it and planning to finish the work soon.

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Problems in your area?
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Badly built

JP Nagar



There is no opening to allow rain water to flow near Apollo Pharmacy on the newly asphalted road in JP Nagar 7th Phase.

Unpleasant walk

Cambridge Road



Pavements at Cambridge Road are in poor condition. There are schools in the vicinity and students use these pavements. They are compelled to use the road for walking.

Pay proper attention to dug-up road

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The residents of Cambridge Road are upset about the terrible condition of the pavement in the area. The pavement has been dug up on both sides, causing immense inconvenience to all the pedestrians who use it.

Reportedly, the road has been dug up for almost 2 weeks and no further work has been carried on.

Sagar N, a resident of the area, told Bangalore Mirror, "Since the road has been dug up on both sides, it is becoming very difficult to use the road."

There are a number of schools in the vicinity and a lot of students use the road. Hence for them, it is becoming very difficult.

"The pavement is quite dangerous for students. It is currently exam season and several students usually



The road has been dug up on both sides and left for almost 2 weeks

read on their way to school. It is possible that one of them can just fall because of the dug-up pavement and

The area has many schools in the vicinity and a lot of school children use the road. It is currently exam season and several students usually read on their way to school

hurt themselves," said Amit Ashok, another resident.

Other residents added that even the senior citizens use the road for walking, and they are also facing a number of problems.

"My mother is quite aged, and she is facing immense problems because of this. She often walks to get small chores done, but ever since the pavement has been dug up she is not able to go out as it is quite unsafe," said Ashwin Verma, another resident.

As there is no work going on in

the dug-up area, the residents want the road to be fixed as soon as possible.

"If there was any work going on then it would be understandable, but the road was just dug up and left like that for weeks. It is causing problems for everyone," said Naveen Malhotra, another resident.

The pedestrians are ending up using the road and it is quite unsafe for them as vehicles run at a very high speed.

According to Arvind Kumar, another resident, if anyone is not being careful then major accidents can take place.

"For people like us, who drive cars, is also a big problem. We have to be very careful while using the road and go at a very slow speed because of all the people who are using the road," he said.

Meanwhile, a BBMP official told BM that they are trying to finish the work as soon as possible.

Clear soon

Sahakar Nagar



Car parked on 60 Feet Road near UCO Bank in Sahakar Nagar was partially burnt at 11:30 pm. A lot of dry leaves are lying in almost all Crosses, which are not cleared. BBMP should clear it before any major fire accident happens.

Blaze turns around 40 sq ft of biodiversity park into ash

A fire that broke out at the Biodiversity Park of Bangalore University on Sunday late evening led to panic among people living in and around the area. The incident is expected to have reduced around 40 square feet of area inside the park into ashes.

According to university officials, it was a natural fire at the bamboo plantation inside the park, mainly due to the litter bed – the layer of dead leaves, twigs, and tree bark on the floor.

"The fire broke out on Sunday night inside the park. However, it was immediately brought under control with the help of university staff and the fire department. We

reached out to the nearest fire station and had the fire brigade help us douse it. The fire was due to the unattended litter bed inside the park," said N Mahesh Babu, registrar, Bangalore University.

University officials also added that while the fire was triggered by natural factors, it occurred prematurely this year due to early summer. Moreover, an instruction has been issued by the registrar's office to the park officials to clear the area of straws and dried leaves.

"Approximately around 40 square feet area has been reduced to ash," added Babu.

According to sources from BU, the fire was the result of sheer neg-

ligence on the part of authorities. Moreover, since it went on for more than four hours, the damage caused is much more than a few square feet.

"It was a man-made fire resulting from the open burning of a garbage dump inside the park. The university should employ and deploy more foot staff in and around biodiversity park, rather than in offices," said the source.

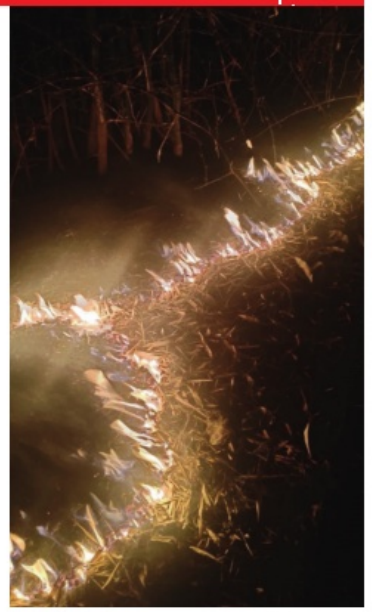
Reportedly, the fire has caused

The fire raged on for more than four hours and caused damage to the park's biodiversity

harm to the rich biodiversity of the park. Sources say a lot of herb species inside the park have sustained damage. A recent assessment done by the Department of Environmental Science students of the varsity had shown that the campus is teeming with herbs with a wide range of medicinal uses.

The study conducted on biodiversity conservation areas, including the Biodiversity Park on the campus, had identified 61 species of herbs, out of which 52 species were of medicinal value. The study also revealed that among 52 herb species recorded, about 80% of the species have been widely used in ayurveda and folk medicine.

BMB



Folks, pay more to watch your favourite channel

Cable TV operators say that there will be a price hike in monthly bill after TRAI's amendment

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If you have been unable to view several channels on your cable TV recently, you are not the only one. Cable TV operators say that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been forcing them to charge higher tariffs and operators say that the cable monthly bill may go up by 30 per cent from next month. Operators say that the price hike was imminent following an amendment by TRAI.

Karnataka State Cable TV operators Association president Patrick Raju said, "Around five MSOs have refused to sign a deal with the TV channels and hence the feed has been stopped for them. Hence, those who have subscribed to the cable TV from those MSOs are now facing the blackout. Now, there is news that if we implement the TRAI amendment, the tariff is expected to go up by 30 per cent from next month. This will be a loss-loss situation for us as well as consumers. While consumers may shift to other mediums, we will see erosion of our base."

Raju says that currently there are 37 lakh cable customers in Karnataka including five lakh in Bengaluru alone.

However, he added that in the last few years, the cable TV operators have lost 40 per cent of their consumers.

"We are facing stiff competi-



Cable TV operators say that they have lost 40 per cent of their base in recent years due to stiff competition from OTT and DTH operators

tion from OTT and DTH operators. Our base is already eroded and if there is a cable bill hike, then we are sure that we may lose many more customers. The government should understand that besides providing access to entertainment, the cable business is also a employment generation unit.

"We have close to two lakh cable owners in the country and

around 20 lakh people in the country are directly or indirectly involved in the cable business. If we continue to suffer losses, then many would lose jobs in a country where employee termination has been a common scene across the industries," added Raju.

In the last few years, the cable bill has been going up and users are feeling the pocket pinch.

"Bengaluru is a cosmopolitan city where people watch multiple language channels," said Prashanth R, a cable TV user. "This was the reason why we used to pay Rs 200 to Rs 250 every month to watch more than 200 channels. However, following TRAI rules, the cable operators were forced to introduce a bouquet of channels and we consumers had no option but to take

channels on ala carte mode."

"Around four years back, I used to get 250 channels for Rs 200 but now I am able to watch less than 30 channels for Rs 420. When OTTs are so affordable and offer us the option of video on demand, why would we want to go for cable TV if the prices continue to rise," he said.

Meanwhile, Raju said that they were demanding intervention from the government so that the cable business could be sustained.

"I have even approached court. We are now seeking support from cable operators from other states as well as we want to put up a united fight against the rise in cable TV prices as most of the broadcasters have hiked their tariffs," he said.

IN BRIEF

K'taka govt warns female officers over public spat

The Karnataka government warned of disciplinary action against two female bureaucrats who have been levelling charges against each other on social media.

The quarrel between Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Managing Director D Roopa Moudgil (in pic), an IPS officer, and IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri, the Muzrai Department Commissioner, reached the office of the Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma, with both submitting petitions seeking action against each other.

The issue began with Roopa taking to social media alleging several "wrongdoings" of Sindhuri. She also made personal remarks, accusing Sindhuri of misconduct and released personal pictures of her alleging that it was shared by her with a few male officers.

Roopa had also accused Sindhuri of corruption and filed a complaint with the Chief Minister's office.

Sindhuri said in a statement that these allegations were false and Roopa was trying to defame her.

Later, Rohini's husband Sudhir Reddy on Monday filed a police complaint against Roopa asking her about the source of the photo.

A case has been registered with the Bagalagunte Police Station.

Sindhuri on Monday also met the Chief Secretary and presented her case.

Later speaking to reporters, she said, "Roopa is making baseless allegations against me, I had come to complain regarding it to the Chief Secretary. I have given the complaint and sought for action. Roopa is an IPS officer, her work jurisdiction has nothing to do with mine, she belongs to a different service, but still she has been repeatedly making allegations on social media regarding my professional life."

BMB



A way to brighter future

Association of hundred plus RWAs, NGOs, BBMP, and residents come together at Kanakapura Road to discuss their problems by celebrating Beedhi Habba

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents of Kanakapura Road have started a new way of discussing issues in the community and finding their solutions through vibrant activities, music and dance. For this purpose, the 'Beedhi Habba' street festival was organised by the Changemakers of Kanakapura Road (CMKR), an association of hundred plus resident welfare associations (RWAs), and the Smitam NGO.

About 250 people gathered at the Sarakki junction in Bengaluru on Sunday morning, February 19 to discuss a wide range of problems, starting from the poor condition of footpaths followed by menstrual hygiene, proper disposal and segregation of garbage.

According to Kiran Kumar from CMKR, the association received a good response from the residents at the event. It was surprising as this is the first time it organised something like this.

"This is a concept that has actually gone missing recently. Earlier, older generations used to get together and celebrate community living but now most people remain confined to their own spaces. They do not come out and are also hesitant to speak up. Therefore, this is a kind of opportunity where the people can speak up without any fear," he said.

Along with providing a platform for the people to discuss issues faced by them, the event also helped the people celebrate togetherness and community living. Further, people engaged in face painting, dancing, flash mob, art and craft, skating, cycling, singing, and busking.

Regional authorities from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and city traffic police were also present at the event and listened to the grievances put forward by the public.

"People came together and discussed a range of things. For example, the dos and don'ts of garbage



About 250 people gathered at Sarakki junction to discuss their daily problems through vibrant activities, music and dance

“ Citizens discussed a range of things. The idea is for them to understand how they can actively take part as individuals and resolve issues

—Kiran Kumar, CMKR

segregation, traffic rules, littering, etc. Oftentimes we complain about littering on the streets when it is we, as a community, who is doing that. So, it is also about social awareness," Kiran added.

After receiving a positive response at the pilot event at Kanakapura Road, the association plans to extend these communal celebrations to other wards and areas of Bengaluru.

Meghana Murthy, founder of Smitam NGO told Bangalore Mirror that the event helped almost 15 NGOs in the area to come together and show the people how they are working.

"We also had an open mic where the residents, officials from BBMP and Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) also talked about the problems faced by them on a daily basis. The idea is

for the people to understand how they can take an active part as an individual and solve the issues in the community," she explained.

The event also helped in networking between the NGOs and the people. One of the major issues highlighted by the resident was the poor quality and low walkability of the footpaths in their area, she informed.

How shoddy infra crumbles



The Rani Abbakka playground in Mahalakshmi Layout is damaged just 12 days after inauguration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The walking track has been damaged; the granite slabs laid for the stadium are breaking off with a mere push. Due to a lack of security, illegal activities are taking place — people are using the premises for consuming alcohol," Kumar said.

Kumar added that the gate at the entrance of the park has not been fixed properly and poses a risk to walkers: "The concrete base of the gate is breaking away and could fall at any moment. It's a big risk to the walkers and sports enthusiasts."

Another resident Hemanth SC

said: "Using taxpayers' money, the playground was developed over three years. On the one hand, the quality of work is not up to mark and on the other, there is no maintenance. There is no one to remove the waste accumulated on the footpath. People are using the facility for purposes other than the intended one; there are no checks in place."

However, BBMP officials said even though the park was inaugurated, the work is yet to be completed. "Even though the work has been completed, there is one week of work pending. It will be completed soon," a BBMP official told BM.

Prepaid auto counter woes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one way roads, etc, and it ends up costing more than cabs," he added further.

However, the pre-fixed counters have still been attracting several commuters in the last one month; MG Road metro station has the highest demand for autos, the traffic police said.

"We have not received any such complaints so far for the pre-fixed auto counters. A lot of people are preferring these counters and the auto drivers have also been cooperating well with the traffic police so far. The foot-fall has been going up," said Kala Krishnaswamy, deputy commissioner of police (traffic), east division.



Citizens often struggle to find autos that are willing to take them where they want to go

That said, commuters on the other hand seemed to have had a different experience with the auto drivers.

"The initiative as a whole is great but it doesn't really work. This is exactly what happened with the auto counters years ago, there were rarely any autos available and the commuters were left at the mercy of auto drivers," said commuter Rajunath Gowda.

Another commuter, Tanvi Singh, said: "The traffic police personnel present at the counter did not give me a token slip. For the first five minutes there were no autos but when we did get one, the traffic police asked us to pay Rs 50 to the auto driver at the end of the ride. However, the auto driver ended up charging Rs 100 for just 3 km. It was double the amount shown in cab aggregator apps."

After MG Road and Cubbon Park, the pre-fixed auto counters have been inaugurated at a few other metro stations around the city. The auto counters are part of a joint initiative by the Bengaluru Traffic police and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation.

Despite law, the load is heavy

Traffic police have prohibited entry of transport vehicles into city during peak hours, but without any alternatives lorries continue to be in thick of things



Traffic experts say there is need to make terminals for the trucks to be parked on the outskirts of the city

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The city has registered 428 cases regarding Heavy Transport Vehicle (HTV) prohibition in January 2023.

The Bengaluru city police has prohibited the entry of HTV vehicles in the city during peak hours after it was noted that HTVs put commuters at danger because many of them drive fast and contribute to traffic congestion during rush hour.

Residents in the city say that even after the prohibition, they can spot HTVs in the city which cause traffic blockage.

"Two weeks back, I spotted a big lorry that was carrying steel and because the lorry was on a

narrow road, it was difficult for vehicles to move. There were traffic chaos and people who were going to their office were late. These HTVs inside the city are a major problem during peak hours because people have to go to schools, colleges and to their office. The authorities should make sure that there is strict implementation of law, also these heavy vehicles make the roads more prone to accidents," said Swayam Jagrutti, a resident.

Traffic expert MN Sreehari says that the government should finish the construction of Satellite town Ring Road (STRR).

"There is a need to make truck terminals in the outskirts of the city, it is a large area where trucks will be parked during the day and they can leave at night. They should also have a cafeteria and restrooms, this will make it easier

“Our focus is not to fine them. We park the HTVs that we find in the city. Right now the focus is on traffic management and regulations

—Kuldeep Jain, DCP, Traffic West

for the drivers. The government should focus on the completion of STRR so that these HTV vehicles can move without entering the city," he said.

Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic west division, says that the focus of the traffic department is to identify areas where

HTV vehicles are entering during peak hours and to take action to ensure easy flow of traffic.

"We have identified major and minor roads in the outskirts of the city, where the diversion and prohibition starts at 7:30 in the morning and for the evening peak hours as well. We sometimes also find HTVs in the city, which would have entered before 7:30, we make sure that wherever spaces are available, we park these vehicles till the peak hour and then allow them to move," he said.

"Our focus is not to put a fine on them. Even if we find an HTV, we just park it at a place. Right now the focus is on traffic management and regulations only rather than fining," he added.

He also added that there is no possibility of removing the HTV prohibition yet.

Tributes pour in as Bhagavan passes away

Popular Kannada film director SK Bhagavan, who directed a number of movies for legendary actor of Kannada cinema late Dr Rajkumar, passed away on Monday at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The 90-year-old Bhagavan was admitted to the hospital and was being treated for age-related ailments for two months. Family sources explained that his body would be kept at his daughter's residence at Sahakaranagar for the public.

Bhagavan directed movies jointly with Dorai Raj and their combination was popularly known as Dorai-Bhagavan. The pair has given super-hit and landmark movies.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has condoled the death of Bhagavan. "The death of S.K. Bhagavan, famous director of Kannada film industry, has saddened me. I pray for his departed soul. I also pray to god to give strength to his family members to tolerate the pain.



SK Bhagavan

"Bhagavan along with Dorai Raj had given landmarks films for Kannada film industry. They had directed Dr. Rajkumar's movies such as 'Kasturi Nivasa', 'Eradu Kanasu', 'Giri Kanye' and 'Hosabelaku'. Om Shanthi," he said.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah stated that he is saddened by the death of Bhagavan who had enriched the Karnataka's art and film industry. Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy stated that Bhagavan had given an all-time movie like 'Kasturi Nivasa'. Congress State President DK Shivakumar has also conveyed his condolences.

Bhagavan directed movies like Bayalu Daari, Gaali Maathu, Chandanada Gombe, Hosa Belaku and Jeevana Chaitra. The director duo had also given movies like 'Govadalli CID 999', 'Operation Jackpot' and 'Jedara Bale', inspired by James Bond movies and the late Dr Rajkumar had played the lead role. They also brought 14 popular novels in Kannada language on celluloid and also got commercial success. Bhagavan was born on July 5, 1933. He completed his education in Bengaluru and joined theatre from Hirannayya Mitra Mandali at an early age.

—IANS

Notice to minister over construction on lake premises

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issuance of notice to state Minister Muniratna and others over the issue of alleged illegal construction of a Lord Shiva statue and a concrete structure in the form of an open air theatre.

The court issued the order on a PIL filed by Geetha Mishra alleging illegal construction and encroachment of lakes. In an application filed in the PIL today, the issue of the illegal construction was placed before the Court. It is alleged that "with the help of the MLA of RR Nagar Assembly Constituency, Muniratna, M Govindaraju, BJP President of RR Nagar Assembly Constituency have sought permission to erect a 35 feet tall idol of Lord Shiva on 19/02/2023 on the occasion of Shivaratri and to conduct recreational and entertainment activities on the lake bed of Malathalli lake."

The application further stated that "Govindaraju in connivance with the BBMP and

the Lake Development Authority CEO has constructed a huge circular concrete structure in the form of an open air theatre."

Advocate G R Mohan, representing the petitioner, informed the court that no work order or sanction plan was issued by any authority for this illegal structure. Due to the illegal construction and filling up of the lake with debris, the boundary is further reduced. According to the petitioner, four acres and seven guntas of the 72 acre 22 gunta lake is already encroached upon. The application sought to make Muniratna Naidu, M Govindaraju, the Joint Commissioner, Executive Engineer of RR Nagar, Executive Engineer, BBMP, and other officers respondents in the case. The HC allowed for issuing of notices to all the proposed respondents. **PTI**



IN HIGH COURT

Use of Krishik Samaj building okayed

The High Court on Monday issued an interim order allowing the use of the Karnataka Pradesh Krishik Samaj building in Bengaluru after a panel submitted a report stating that it was located outside Cubbon Park.

Following a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by the Cubbon Park Walkers Association, the court had earlier constituted a fact-finding committee comprising engineers from the Public Works Department and the Assistant Director of Land Records to conduct a survey and report if the building has come up on land

that is part of Cubbon Park.

The survey report presented to the division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Ashok S Kinagi stated that the building is outside Cubbon Park limits. Considering this report, the court allowed Horticultural

Producers Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society Limited (HOPCOMS) to use the building located near Hudson Circle in the city. The report also mentioned that the Karnataka State Government Employees Association is also outside Cubbon Park limits and the court has also allowed its use by the Association. The court, however, specified that it would be subject to the final judgment in the case.

The other respondents in the PIL filed by the Walkers Association include Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), The Century Club, Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association, Karnataka Government Secretariat Club, The Press Club of Bangalore and the Young Mens Christian Association.

The PIL claims that Cubbon Park is notified under the Karnataka Parks, Playfields and Open Spaces (Preservation and Regulation) Act but the authorities have allowed several illegal constructions inside it by the respondents, who are operating under lease inside the park. **PTI**

Privilege panel asked to probe 'disorderly conduct' of 12 MPs

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar wants action against 9 Cong, 3 AAP MPs for obstructing House proceedings

#NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar has asked a parliamentary committee to investigate the alleged breach of privilege by 12 MPs from the Congress and the AAP for repeatedly entering the well of the House, shouting slogans and obstructing its proceedings.

According to a Rajya Sabha bulletin, nine of the MPs are from the Congress and three from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The Congress MPs are Shaktisinh Gohil, Naranbhai J Rathwa, Syed Nasir Hussain, Kumar Ketkar, Imran Prattapgarhi, L Hanumanthaiah, Phulo Devi Netam, Jebi Mather Hisham and Ranjeet Ranjan.

The AAP members are Sanjay Singh, Sushil Kumar Gupta and Sandeep Kumar Pathak.

Reacting to the development, AAP MP Singh said, "We have not



File photo of Jagdeep Dhankar standing up to bring order during the Budget Session of Parliament

done anything which amounts to breach of privilege. We have only stated the truth and exposed a scam related to crores of common people." "When we get the notice, we will respond to it," he told PTI.

In the bulletin dated February 18, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...the Chairman...has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of gross disorderly conduct displayed by (the MPs)...in violation of rules and etiquette of

Points raised by Dhankar include 'repeatedly entering well of council, shouting slogans'

Rajya Sabha by repeatedly entering the well of the council, shouting slogans and persistently and wilfully obstructing the proceedings of the council, compelling the Chair to repeatedly adjourn the sittings of

the Council."

In another notice, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, "...members are informed that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred a question of alleged breach of privilege arising out of non-adherence to the directions of the Chair vis-a-vis repeated submission of identical notices under rule 267 by Shri Sanjay Singh, under rule 203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha..." **PTI**

EPFO comes out with method for higher pension

#NEWDELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO on Monday came out with a procedure to enable subscribers and their employers to jointly apply for higher pension under Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

Earlier in November 2022, the Supreme Court had upheld Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme 2014.

The EPS amendment of August 22, 2014 had raised the pensionable salary cap to Rs 15,000 a month from Rs 6,500 a month, and allowed members along with their employers to contribute 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries (if it exceeded the cap) towards the EPS.

In an office order, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provided for dealing with the 'Joint Option Form' by field offices of the body. EPFO stated that "a facility will be provided for which URL (unique resource location) will be informed shortly. Once received, the regional PF commissioner shall put adequate notice on the notice board and banners for wider public information".

It provided that each application will be registered, digitally logged and the receipt number will be provided to the applicant.

It further stated that the office in-charge of the concerned regional provident fund office shall examine each case of joint option on higher salary and intimate the decision to the applicant through e-mail/post and later through SMS also. **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Latha .R @ R. Latha @ Latha Ramakrishna D/o Late R.Rama Krishna W/o Srinivas Sairam Kalaga resident of No. 583, 2nd Block, 2nd Main road, Rajaji nagar, Bangalore-560010 have changed my name to Latha Ramakrishna Kalaga vide affidavit dated 20.02.2023 sworn before notary Renuka .C. B.lore

I, Ravi Shankar R/o #19, B.YS, VP street, Mittaganahalli, Kannur, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru 562149 have changed my name to Ravi Shankar Ramakrishnapa affidavit Dt.20/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda.M.V, B'luru

I, Santhosh A.N R/o #37, Magadi road, Byadarahalli, Vishwaneedam po, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my minor son name from Yogesh Gowda.S to Bhuvan Gowda.S affidavit Dt.20/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda. M.V, B'luru

I 'V.J.Angadi' S/O 'Jambanna Angadi' R/o #444,1st D Cross,8th A Main Road,3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaweshwaranagara, Bangalore - 560079 have changed my name to 'Veerabhadrapa Jambanna Angadi' for all purposes

I Santosh Subhash, R/o- A803, Ramanajyothi Apt, Tumkur Rd, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022 have changed my name to Santosh Dhatri.

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Assam woman kills hubby, mother-in-law; dumps chopped-up body parts in Meghalaya

#GUWAHATI

Aman and his mother were killed, cut into pieces, packed in polythene bags and dumped in gorges of neighbouring Meghalaya allegedly by his wife and her two "close friends", police said on Monday.

The murders happened in July and August last year, and few parts of the mother's body were recovered on Sunday near Cherrapunji in Khasi Hills. "The first murder of the mother-in-law happened on July 26, while the husband was killed on August 17. We have arrested all the three accused and they are being interrogated now," Guwahati Police Commissioner Diganta Barah told PTI. He said the wife and one of her accomplices were arrested in Guwahati, while the third accused was nabbed in Tinsukia district.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Diganta Kumar Choudhury said the wife had lodged a missing complaint about her husband Amarjyoti Dey (32) and mother-in-law Shankari Dey (62) on August 29 and the police started an investigation.

"In November, Amarjyoti's

cousin filed another missing complaint, which raised doubts about the wife as she allegedly withdrew money from her mother-in-law's account. Then we re-started our investigation and detected the murders," Choudhury told PTI.

Both the cases were registered at Noonmati police station, and the murders took place at different houses in Chandmari and Narengi areas in Guwahati, he said.

Addressing a press conference later, the Police Commissioner said the wife has been identified as Bandana Kalita (32), while her two male friends are Dhanti Deka (32) and Arup Deka (27). "During interrogation, it was revealed that Bandana and Amarjyoti married around 12 years ago against the wishes of both families. The post-marital relationship between the two could not exactly be termed as

cordial," he added.

While Amarjyoti's mother accepted the marriage later and started supporting them financially, he was not gainfully employed and this led to frequent quarrels between the couple, Barah said.

"Bandana took up a job as a fitness trainer at a gym and her mother-in-law initially supported her, but later she backed out. This turned their relationship sour. Bandana claimed her husband used to take addictive substances and had many woman friends," the police officer said. To get rid of the mother-in-law and her husband, the woman allegedly killed them with the help of her friends, he said.

After strangulating Shankari to death at her house at by a pillow, the three cut her body into three pieces, went to Meghalaya in Dhanti's car and threw the body parts and the weapons used in the crime in different areas by 10 am the next day, he said. "On August 17, Bandana along with her two partners in crime attacked Amarjyoti with a rod at his flat in Narengi, where the couple used to live. After he died, the body was chopped into five pieces," Barah said. **PTI**

The post-marital relationship between the two could not be termed as cordial —A police officer



Want to live to 100? Look East...

Health secrets helping people from Japan live longer and healthier lives

With low incidences of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer, Japan has one of the highest number of octogenarians per capita. So it's perhaps unsurprising a new report has found that it has the healthiest lifestyle of 195 nations across the world. The benefits begin with the traditional diet of the country, which feeds into this healthy success.

"The Japanese diet focuses on minimally processed foods, is usually seasonal and includes plenty of fruits and vegetables, fish and fermented foods like soy," says Sophie Medlin, Director and Specialist Dietitian at City Dietitians.

Some ancient traditions the Japanese still live by - such as Nagomi, the art of living a balanced, harmonious life - also appear to play their part in boosting life expectancy.

Here are some tips from the country's secrets.

GET KELP

"Seaweed, a staple in Japanese cuisine, is a really healthy food," says Sophie. "It's a particularly good source of iodine which is lacking in many people's diets but which we need to make thyroid hormones that help keep cells healthy."

"It also contains vitamins K and B, zinc and iron as well as healthy compounds like polyphenols and antioxidants."

Try it: "Add varieties like nori or kelp to soups and stews and in sushi or stir fries," suggests Sophie.

BECAUSE IT'S WORTH IT

Translated as "having a purpose in life" or "what makes life worth living", ikigai is an ideology closely associated with the nation's long life expectancy. Japanese people have a keen awareness that they need to find their ikigai to keep life meaningful and pleasurable. Yours could be anything from bringing up your children or a hobby you find satisfying.

Try it: If you can't name your own ikigai, then it may be worth taking time to find a new purpose in life. Think about volunteering to help others if you aren't sure where to start.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

People from Japan's Okinawa Island - where many inhabitants live to



well over 100 - eat according to the principles of Hara hachi bu. This means they stop eating when their stomachs are 80 per cent full. It's thought that consuming only as much as you need - and not overeating - can slow down cellular ageing.

Try it: Don't rush through meals, it takes up to 20 minutes for your brain to register you're actually full. So before you dive in for seconds, wait a while.

SOUP KITCHEN

Miso soup is a popular side dish in Japan.

It's made from dashi (stock) plus miso, a fermented protein-rich paste made from soybeans which contains vitamin K, manganese, zinc and calcium, all of which can help keep bones and the nervous system healthy.

Try it: Blend some miso paste with stock (both can be high in salt, so if you follow a low-sodium diet limit your intake or make your own

saltfree stock with bones left after a Sunday roast).

SMALL CHANGE

Kaizen, translated as "good change" is a proven method for helping people kick unhealthy addictions, says Sarah Harvey, author of Kaizen: The Japanese Method for Transforming Habits, One Small Step at a Time (Bluebird). "It recognises that small, incremental steps - rather than doing anything drastic - are key to changing your habits permanently."

Try it: "If you suspect you have an unhealthy relationship with your phone, for example, try deleting a social media app from it and only accessing it via your desktop," says Sarah. "Or if that feels too drastic, try moving social media apps into a hidden phone folder so you don't just go to them on your home screen."

DIVERSIFY

The Japanese enjoy a variety of fer-

mented foods - like miso, soy sauce, nukazuke and tsukemono (pickled veg) as part of their daily menus - all of which may add probiotic bacteria into the gut and increase its microbial diversity. Research suggests older people with more diverse gut bacteria live longer. Less gut microbial diversity is linked to the early onset of frailty in old age.

Try it: "Adding at least one fermented food to our diets each day is a really great idea for our overall health so think about using soya sauce as a seasoning, tempeh as a protein and kimchi (fermented vegetables)," advises Sophie.

GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY

Popular Japanese practice shinrin-yoku, or 'forest bathing', is all about immersing yourself in a natural environment using as many of your senses as you can - listening to the sound of leaves rustling, smelling the damp earth. It's been shown to reduce stress levels and ease low mood, too.

Try it: If you can't get to a forest, go to a park or get your hands dirty in the garden.

SEAFOOD STAPLE

There are low levels of heart disease and high cholesterol in Japan, partly attributed to the fact that those living there tend to eat less red meat and more fish.

White fish makes a healthier, lower-fat alternative to red and processed meats. Sophie adds: "Omega-3 fatty acids in oily fish like trout or sardines are really important for our heart and brain health too. They have also been associated with a reduction in the risk of Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as depression and anxiety."

Try it: Eat at least two portions of fish a week (including one of oily fish). Aim to steam, bake or grill fish rather than fry it though.

GO GREEN

One of the most popular drinks in Japan, green tea is full of antioxidants and polyphenols that have been shown to help guard against disease.

Try it: Swap one of your daily teas or coffees for a green cuppa. Remember this type of tea still contains caffeine, so don't go overboard too late in the day.

GIVE RED MIST A MISS

The Japanese practice of nagomi is often described as the secret to a harmonious life. "Roughly, it means balance, comfort and calm of the heart and mind," says neuroscientist Ken Mogi, author of The Way of Nagomi (Quercus). "It is the idea that you would be best advised to avoid decisive confrontation at any cost." Ken says coming to a state of nagomi can provide relief from stress, tension and discord.

Try it: One of the pillars of nagomi is about making happy relationships with your loved ones, even if you disagree with them, says Ken. "The ethos of nagomi in the context of relationships is that maintaining harmony is the single most important thing, even if it masks differences of opinion below the surface." —Daily Mirror

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Insomnia

What is it?

In these troubled times, many of us are having difficulty sleeping and are storing up large sleep debts of insomnia.

What are the symptoms?

Insomnia takes many forms. You lie awake at night, wake up several times during the night, find it hard to go to sleep, wake up early and can't go back to sleep, still feel tired after waking up, find it hard to nap, find it difficult to concentrate during the day, and feel tired and irritable too.

What causes it?

We think of sleep as easy but it isn't. Many things put us off - noise, alcohol, recreational drugs, stress, shift work, anxiety or depression, a room that's too hot or cold, uncomfortable beds, caffeine or nicotine and jet lag.

Some tips for a good night's sleep:

They are thought to develop as a result of inflammation of the lining of the nasal passages and sinuses. The lining tends to become increasingly swollen before it then starts to hang down.

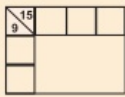
What's the treatment?

DO exercise regularly during the day relax for at least one hour before going to bed make sure your mattress, pillows and covers are comfortable make sure your bedroom is dark and quiet go to bed and wake up at the same time every day DON'T sleep in after a bad night's sleep watch television or use devices before going to bed exercise less than four hours before going to bed eat a big meal late at night ? nap during the day smoke or drink alcohol, tea or coffee less than six hours before going to bed See your GP if none of the above measures work or your insomnia is affecting your daily life. Your GP probably won't prescribe sleeping pills but might refer you for cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror

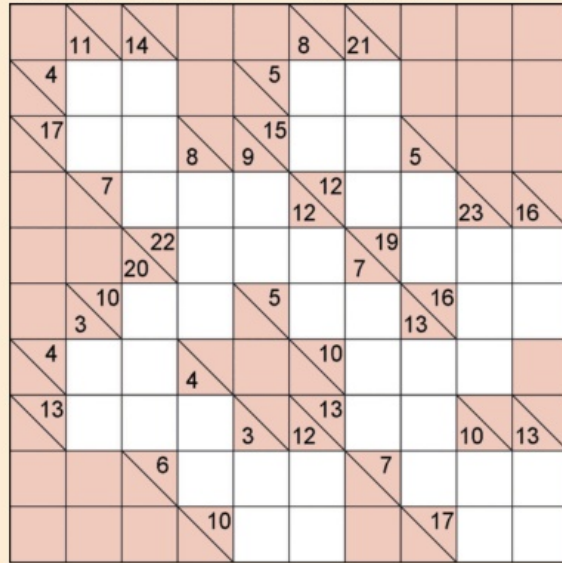
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

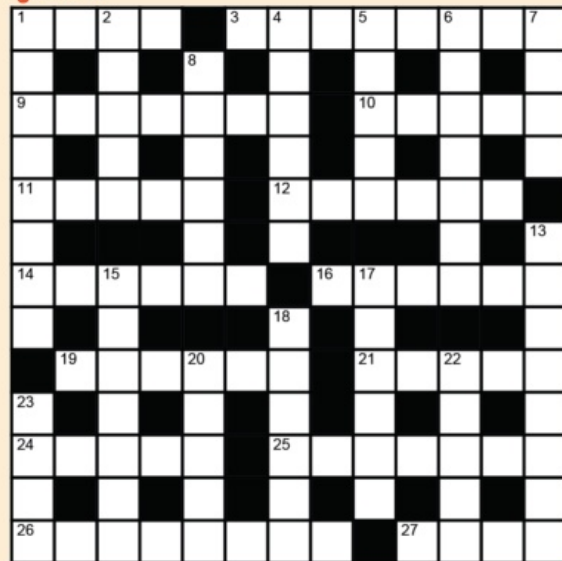


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Let ___ : disappoint or fail ? (4)
- 3 Commented, said or noted (8)
- 9 Green vegetable (7)
- 10 Peevish (5)
- 11 ___ other : alternate? (5)
- 12 Silvery metal (6)
- 14 Decorative woven material (6)
- 16 Area including Spain (6)
- 19 Park spanning 300 acres in the Cantonment Area (6)
- 21 Very, musically (5)
- 24 Courtyard (5)
- 25 Unheeded (7)
- 26 A calm state (8)
- 27 Ex-Opening batsman ___ Sundar Das (4)

DOWN

- 1 Expands, dilates (8)
- 2 In a ___ : soon? (5)
- 4 Morals (6)
- 5 Amend (5)
- 6 Srinagar locale (7)
- 7 24 hour periods (4)
- 8 Woodland gods or lustful men (6)
- 13 1983 World Cup winning captain (5,3)
- 15 Got up on a horse, perhaps (7)
- 17 Intellectual ability (6)
- 18 Violet blue dye (6)
- 20 Leg up (5)
- 22 Hollywood's ___ Jessica Parker (5)
- 23 Musical work (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS H
ILJ ILG LUDFTA ZW PFTZMA,
VMZ NA BLJJWZ TALUWJLVSG
LUDFTA ZW ZTMZN.



Linemaro

Do you have a name or can I call you mine?



Mindchow

Man suffers only because he takes seriously what the gods made for fun



Joke of the day

What did Jay-Z call his girlfriend before getting married? Feyonce

Loop

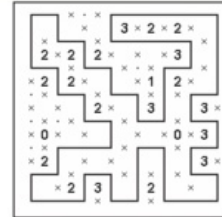
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

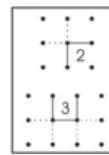
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

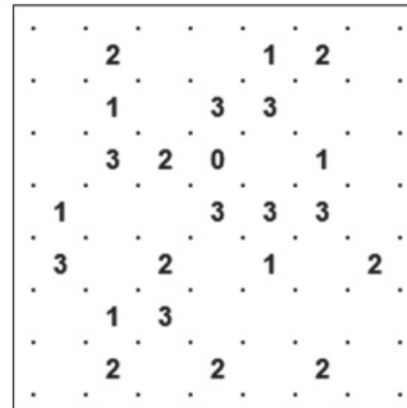
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



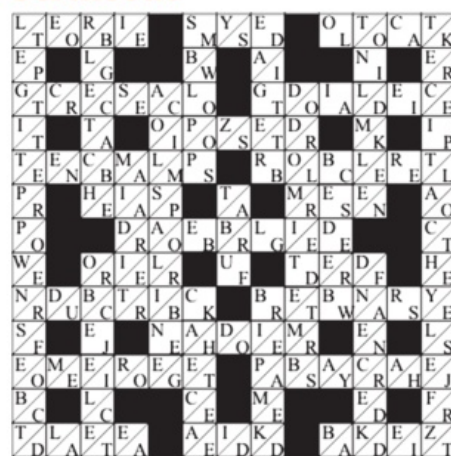
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



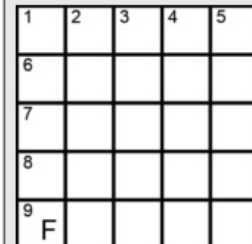
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

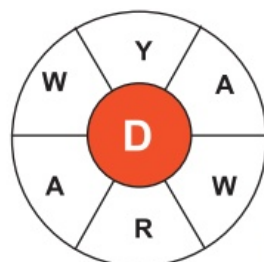
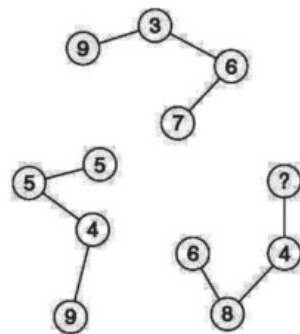
- 1 Harbs; 6 Me roc;
- 7 Aries; 8 Rag as;
- 9 Wolfs

DOWN

- 1 Sc far; 2 Or lah;
- 3 Mi Goa; 4 Wears;
- 5 S Reds

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

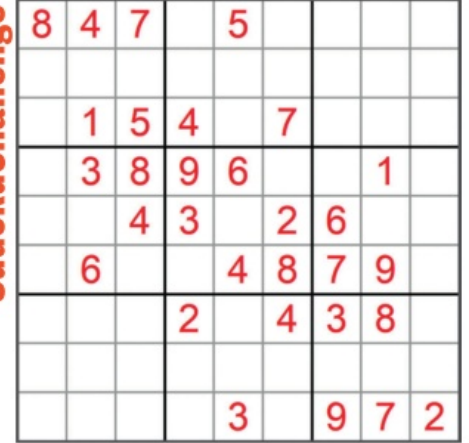


Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

= 6

1 2 3 7

Medium

= 27

3 5 6 6

Hard

= 3

2 7 7 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pillow is larger; 2. Picture on wall is moved; 3. Mouth is different; 4. Necktie is added; 5. Apron is different; 6. Wristwatch is added.

Riddler

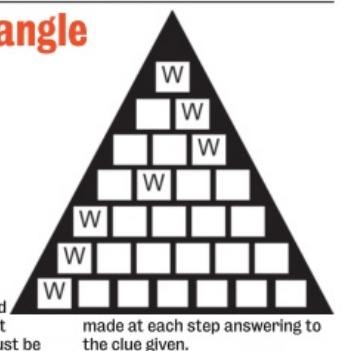
The following are alternate definitions for words, based on how the words sound. For example, "To drive by the docks: P ____" would result in "PASSPORT (Pass Port)". Can you guess the words described below?

1. What white bears see with: P ____
2. A car's memoirs: A ____
3. How judges get to a small island: C ____
4. To live long: D ____
5. How good a fibber one is: L ____
6. In favour of young men and women: P ____

Alpha triangle

- 1 Compass point
- 2 An interjection
- 3 Witnessed
- 4 Astonishes
- 5 Erodes
- 6 Vacillates
- 7 Legal relinquish

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



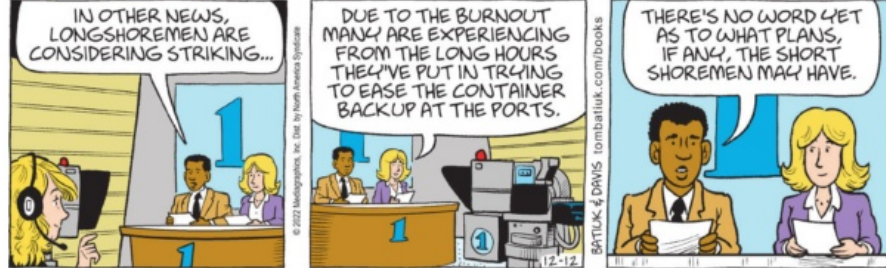
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit, which will boost your bank balance. You are likely to connect with a social organisation, which will increase your network. Singles may find a soul mate in terms of marriage.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find suitable matches. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff are likely to support you.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today your subordinate staff may be cooperative, it may help you to complete postponed projects. You are likely to join some social event, which may boost your network, it may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settling now. Students are advised to avoid carelessness.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today's blessing from elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiative, which may help you at work. Your intuition may help to gain more in terms of finance. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life. Students may expect good results with the help of destiny.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses, which may boost your bank balance. You are likely to perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today your communication skills may help you in terms of professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects. Love birds are likely to exchange their views with each other, which may make some foundation of their relationship.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today you may expect some instant gains in your business, which may boost your confidence level as well as bank balance. You are advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum at the business and work front. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. You may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and may make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today you are blessed by the moon. New partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You are likely to be attracted to the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may affect your work. It is to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today you may be in a hurry. You are advised to drive safely. But with the blessing of the elders, you may come out from the messy situation. You are likely to be more romantic in your love life; harmony in domestic life may come. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today you may feel dullness and unhappiness. You are advised to avoid harsh conversation with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation of your hard work. Need to follow your intuition. You are advised to keep patience while making some important decisions.



KIDZONE



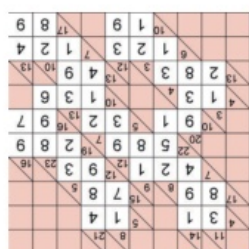
Shanaya Bhattacharya, 7 years, Edify School



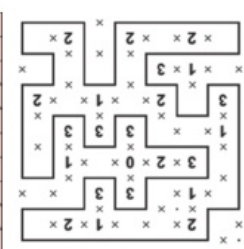
Ruthvik Madan, 5 years, International School, Doha

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

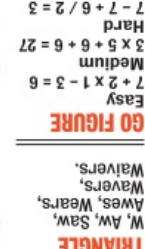
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



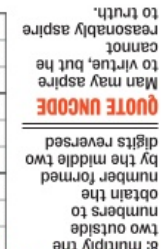
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSAS PUZZLE



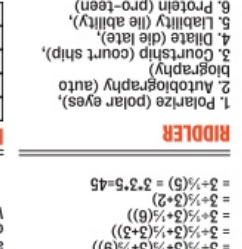
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



RIDDLE



Karismatic venture Karisma Kapoor has started shooting a new project under the banner of Maddock films. The film is titled 'Murder Mubarak.' Taking to Instagram on Sunday, Karisma shared the clapperboard from the movie set

All Quiet... makes a bang

German anti-war drama 'All Quiet on the Western Front' dominated the BAFTA Awards in London on Sunday night with a record-breaking seven wins, including for Best Director, Best Film and Best Film Not in the English Language, reports 'Variety'.

The tally means the World War One epic now holds the record for a film not in the English language. The previous record was held by the 1988 Giuseppe Tornatore film 'Cinema Paradiso', which won five BAFTAs.

Colin Farrell-starrer 'The Banshees of Inisherin' won the second largest number of awards of the night, including both supporting actor categories with wins for Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon (who emerged as the correct winner after fellow nominee Carey Mulligan's name was initially called in error), 'Variety' adds.

Writer and director Martin McDonagh also won for Original Screenplay and Outstanding British Film, although his swipe at the film's producer Searchlight -- when he quipped that he had landed an award for the script without any notes from the studio -- prompted a mixed response from the audience, with some possibly perceiving the comment as arrogant, 'Variety' notes. The director quickly made it clear he wasn't being serious, saying "kidding, kidding".

Combined with Tom Berkeley and Ross White's 'An Irish Goodbye' winning Best Short, it proved a celebratory night for Ireland's film industry, writes 'Variety', with 'Good Luck To You, Leo Grande' actor Daryl McCormack, who was nominated for both Best Actor and Rising Star, joking it was the "Irish BAFTAs" on the red carpet ahead of the ceremony.

The top acting awards of the night went to Cate Blanchett and Austin Butler for their respective turns in 'Tar' and 'Elvis'. It was otherwise a disappointing night for 'Tar', with writer and director Todd Field losing out in the Best Original Screenplay and Best Director categories.

'Elvis' did marginally better,

notes 'Variety'. In addition to Butler's win the film won in three craft categories: Best Hair and Make-Up, Best Casting and Best Costume. Costume designer Catherine Martin was unable to attend, so her husband and 'Elvis' director Baz Luhrmann accepted on her behalf.

The ceremony, at the Royal Festival Hall in London, was hosted by 'Loki' actor Richard E. Grant, who arrived in a Batmobile wearing a floor-length white cape with a train, 'Variety' adds. As he took to the stage, pretending to run late, he quipped: "What could be more British than a delayed train?"

He also joked -- in reference to last year's now infamous Oscars slap: "Nobody on my watch gets slapped tonight -- except on the

back."

Other than the Best Supporting Actress mix-up, the ceremony ran without a hitch, featuring performances from last year's Best Supporting Actress winner Ariana DeBose and singer-songwriter Dylan. BAFTA Chair Krishnendu Majumdar opened the ceremony by paying tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, who died last September. Later in the ceremony, Helen Mirren -- who so memorably played the monarch in 'The Queen' -- also delivered a two-minute tribute.

— IANS

7 wins for German anti-war drama at BAFTA

Our red-carpet picks from the event

SANDALWOOD SHOTS Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Gripping thriller

InCar, a suspense thriller Hindi movie, is all set to be dubbed in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam and is scheduled for release on March 3. Ritika Singh, a mixed martial artist, plays the lead in the movie. Ritika has acted in a Tamil movie Irudhi Suttru, directed by Sudha Kongara Prasad. The movie was simultaneously made in Hindi as Saala Khadoos. She won a national award for her performance in the movie.



InCar, directed by Harsh Warrdhan, is set on a national highway in Haryana and wrapped in a gritty and compelling narrative. The movie is a thriller about a one-day event where three men abduct an innocent girl from a bus stop in broad daylight. The girl is randomly chosen and finds herself in between

two young men in the back-seat of the car on the way to a planned rape and murder.

The girl, Sakshi Gulati, is a 23-year-old college going commerce student who waits at a bus stop while she gets pulled into the vehicle in broad daylight. She has two hours to save herself or else end up dead in an isolated burnt-out factory near Panipat. What follows is Sakshi's horrifying journey inside the car where she is abused, assaulted and tortured. Manish Jhanjholia, Sunil Soni, and Gyan Prakash are the other cast in this movie.

Kannada films on OTT

Cinibazaar, an exclusive over-the-top (OTT) platform for Kannada movies, was launched recently. Kannada movie buffs from anywhere in the world can watch movies that are being released on every Friday on Cinibazaar OTT platform by paying a nominal amount of Rs 10 to Rs 25.

"We are planning to release Kannada movies simultaneously in 177 countries every Friday. The Cinibazaar app is available on the Internet, mobile, TV and website," said Bhaskar Venkatesh of Cinibazaar. Subscribers can watch movies on this app after the theatrical release. "Producers who are interested in releasing their movies directly on this app can do so too," he said. Kannada Film Pro-

ducers' Association president Umesh Banakar said Bhaskar Venkatesh discussed the idea of the app during the lockdown. "I believe Kannada movie producers will benefit from Cinibazaar," he said.

Dr Rajkumar's movie Bhagyavantharu is expected to be released as the inaugural movie. Producers of Pampa, Cocktail, Gubbi have decided to release their movies on this app.

